general nature and no firm conclusions can be drawn. However, in a few cases, enquiries have been conducted and enquiry reports sent to the Assessing Officer for further action as per provisions of law.

(c) As and when specific information is received, appropriate action as per law is taken.

(d) Does not arise.

Sanction for Pooyamkutty project in Kerala

1217. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state whether Government would reconsider its attitude towards Kerala in the light of the acute scarcity of electricity it is facing at present and grant sanction to the Pooyamkutty project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): The Pooyamkutty hydroelectric Power Project in Kerala (2×120 MW) was accorded techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority in 1984 at an estimated cost of Rs. 250 crores. The project was accorded investment clearance by the Planning Commission in August, 1986 subject to the State Government's obtaining the forest clearance, Environmental clearance to the Pooyamkutty Hydroelectric Power Project in Kerala was accorded by the government of India in June, 1985. however, the proposal for the forest clearance was rejected in January, 1991. The State Government has represented to Ministry of Environment & forests for a re-examination of the earlier decision under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Power Policy for north-Eastern region

1218. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI GOVIND RAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any power policy for the North-Eastern Region as a whole; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) The Report on Perspective of National Power Development upto 2006-07 prepared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) provides an important input for formulation of power policy. As per this report, the Peak Demand and Energy Requirement of North Eastern Region is anticipated to be 3231 MW and 15319 MUs respectively. Considering the high hydro potential the total installed generating capacity requirement is assessed at 4480 MW by the end of the above period. The report also suggests Demand Management Strategy and several supply side options including Energy Conservation to augment capacity requirement in the region.

World Bank's scheme for State Electricity Boards

1219. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank has approved a scheme to finance State Electricity Boards to overcome power crisis, if so, the names of States to be benefited from the scheme and to what extent;

(b) the criteria used to identify the beneficiary States;

(c) whether implementation of World Bank Scheme will warrant restructuring of State Electricity Boards, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether State Governments have been approached to ascertain their views?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) The poor physical and financial performance of SEBs has necessitated their restructuring. World Bank has

sanctioned a loan of US$ 2 million each to Orissa, U.P., Haryana and Rajasthan and a loan of US$ 1.5 million to Bihar, to undertake diagnostic studies for reforming/restructuring the State level power industry in these States with the help of international consultants.

(b) These States had approached the Central Government to help them in getting financial assistance under Project Preparation Facility (PPF) of the World Bank.

(c) World Bank is linking up its further assistance to the power sector in the States to their carrying out a restructuring exercise along the findings of the diagnostic studies which, interalia includes unbundling of SEB's functions viz., generation, transmission and distribution into separate corporate entities, setting up of a regulatory commission, revision of tariffs and privatisation of distribution in a gradual manner.

(d) The experience of Orissa where the Orissa Electricity Reform Act, 1995 has been passed and has been brought to the notice of other States for their guidance and consideration.

Sky Radio Service

1220. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched sky radio service recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the areas covered under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) The 20 channel Sky Radio Service of All India Radio has been in operation since 1st April, 1994. This service uses the spare spectrum capacity of Doordarshan satellite television service. The regional programmes broadcast by most of the state capital stations are being uplinked through satellite so as to make them available throughout the country alongwith the satellite channels of Doordarshan. The programmes on these channels can now be heard throughout the country in the FM band. People owning a direct reception set for satellite television reception as well as cable television operators throughout the country can receive these programmes on their FM receivers with the help of a small gadget.

Expert Committee on Mutual Funds

1221. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up Expert Committee to go into the operation/working of mutual funds;

(b) if so, the details of terms of reference of the committee;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report to Government;

(d) if so, the details of the important recommendations/observatiosn made by the Committee; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon keeping in view the interests of small investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): (a) and (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had constituted an expert committee on accounting policies, net asset values and pricing of Mutual Funds with the following terms of reference:—

1. To recommend valuation norms and principles for various types of securities such as fixed income securities, listed securities, unquoted investments and money market securities;

2. To suggest the guiding principles, norms and formulae for determina-